

<b>DISPATCH</b>		CLASSIFICATION <b>SECRET</b>	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO. <b>YDPA-2647</b>
TO Chief of Station, <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFO Chief, FE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		HEADQUARTERS FILE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FROM Chief of Station, <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATE <b>23 June 1961</b>		
SUBJECT <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Transmittal of memorandum on <b>TSUJI Masanobu's Travels</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		RE: "43-3" - (CHECK "X" ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> MARKED FOR INDEXING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO INDEXING REQUIRED	
ACTION REQUIRED <b>None, for your information and files</b>		INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY	

REFERENCES)

PF Airgram 9-325

The attached memorandum is self-explanatory. It was reported in this form because of the crossed lines with the reference report on this subject and because it was felt under the circumstances this would best contribute to the local working relationship in Phnom Penh.

Attachment USC  
As stated above

20 June 1961

Distribution:

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
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- (2)(C) Foreign Relations ☐

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PAGE NO.  
**2**

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

14 June 1961

Participants: IMAGAWA Yutaka, Asst. Ambassador, Japanese Embassy  
David Laux, Asst. Ambassador, Embassy

Place: Laux's office, U.S. Embassy, Saigon

Subject: Travels of Japanese Diet Member Minoboro TSUJI

IMAGAWA called on me to discuss some Japanese matters, and in the course of conversation mentioned that he had discussed the travels of Japanese Diet Member TSUJI Yutaka with Mr. Arzac, First Secretary of Embassy, the night before, and he stated we would consider the information which he provided, "most essential". I assured him that we would. (Mr. Arzac had initiated the conversation in view of the receipt of Tokyo Dispatch of 22 May on the subject, and his information was relayed to Saigon by Airgram O-325 of 15 June.) In further discussion of the matter with me he made the following additional points of interest.

He said that TSUJI was an intimate of IKEDA and "on the outside" with KISHI, whom he has apparently criticized publicly several times. He said that IKEDA had remarked to TSUJI that he (IKEDA) was not adequately prepared to discuss the situation concerning President Kennedy on his forthcoming trip to the U.S. and that TSUJI decided as a result to visit Kishida and obtain first hand information for him. IKEDA then asked TSUJI to undertake the mission but was apparently aware of TSUJI's intention to do so. TSUJI did not inform his family of the actual plan and it was their queries made when they became worried over his prolonged absence which led to the Japanese press speculation over his "disappearance" and whereabouts which have been going on for the past two weeks. IMAGAWA added that TSUJI was a colorful figure in Japan because of the book he published over his famous escape through Malay, Thailand, Laos and North Vietnam to China during World War II, and other episodes, and that this lent to the sensationalism of current press speculation. He also added that his famous escape was made through Vietnam, Kiang Khong and Hanoi so that he was familiar with the territory of his present escapade. IMAGAWA said that TSUJI spoke Japanese and some Thai, which would assist him in his present travels, but no French or Vietnamese.

IMAGAWA said that it was actually TSUJI who made the visit to the DRV Representation Office on 10 April and not as he had reported previously, a group of businessmen investigating the

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possibility of doing business with North Vietnam (See CAS FDP-1154). He said that TSUJI's actual goal was Xieng Khouang, although it was put as Hanoi with a Xieng Khouang stop to the RV representative, to obtain more willing support. IMAGAWA said when TSUJI asked how he could get to this area that the DRV representative, NAI YEN Thuy-va (also reported NGUYEN Trung-vu) replied he should travel out of Vientiane by oxcart and get himself captured by the Pathet Lao who would turn him over to North Vietnamese soldiers who would spirit him to Hanoi. He said this jokingly and then added quickly that there really were no North Vietnamese soldiers in Laos. He then said he would get in touch with Hanoi to request assistance for TSUJI. TSUJI did not wait, however, but left for Bangkok the next day where he spent a few days before going on to Vientiane. When I asked IMAGAWA if TSUJI would not have reported to their Embassy in Vientiane, he said yes, but that he probably did not reveal his true intentions to them. He "disappeared" a few days later.

When I asked IMAGAWA what their Embassy intended to do now about the matter, he replied that they had reported TSUJI's conversation with the DRV representative in detail to the Foreign Ministry, and although they felt TSUJI was now absent a little too long, they would do nothing further unless so instructed.

Comment: This trip may well illustrate the apparent paucity of information available to the Japanese on North Vietnam and Vietcong activities which would explain their increased interest by their Phnom Penh Embassy in these subjects over the past few months.

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